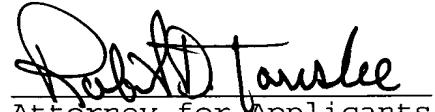


**REMARKS**

One paragraph spanning pages 1 and 2 and claims 1, 3, 7, 14-17, 62, 66, 67 and 71 have been amended. Basis for the amendments to the can be found in the specification at page 1 last original paragraph (partial), the paragraph spanning pages 4 and 5, lines 17-19 of page 5 and in the original claims. Note that the average fiber diameter of about 13 +/- 3 microns mentioned in line 18 of page 5 is a preferred range, see the word "preferably" in line 17.

Respectfully submitted,



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